

Message Text

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S E C R E T LUSAKA 2605

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4 HAD MISSING TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT KAUNDA

REF: STATE 240095 AND STATE 240583

1. I GAVE MARK CHONA THE SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT LETTER (REFTEL) TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE BOTSWANA INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS. IN RECEIVING IT FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE PRESIDENT, CHONA MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION.

2. THEIR EFFORT TO THIS POINT HAD BEEN TO ACHIEVE A UNIFIED AND POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE FIVE PRESIDENTS. SOME SACRIFICES HAD TO BE MADE IN THIS PROCESS LEADING TO A RESPONSE WHICH WAS NOT AS SATISFACTORY AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN WISHED, BUT THE UNITY OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENTS WAS A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND PROVIDED NECESSARY STRENGTH TO ENGAGE IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. ALL OF PRES KAUNDA'S EFFORTS TO DATE HAD BEEN AIMED IN THIS DIRECTION AND TOWARDS OBTAINING PROGRESS IN COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONALISTS. I NOTED THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE TOWARDS THE PROPOSALS COULD PERMIT AN IMPRESSION OF REJECTION TO BUILD UP PROVIDING A MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN AND PERMITTING THE
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RHODESIANS TO BACK AWAY FROM THEIR UNDERTAKING.

CHONA MADE SOME EXCUSES ABOUT THE LOCAL PRESS, REPEATED THE NEED FOR UNITY AMONG THE FIVE PRESIDENTS AND THEN MADE

THE FOLLOWING OFFER.

3. PRES KAUNDA HAS AS YET MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL OR SMITH'S SPEECH. THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO HAD NOT YET ARISEN. ON HIS RETURN FROM BOTSWANA, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT COULD MAKE A STATEMENT. HE WOULD BE GLAD TO GET OUR VIEWS ON WHAT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR HIM TO SAY AT THAT POINT. CHONA SUGGESTED THAT BILL SCHAUFEELE DISCUSS THIS WITH THE PRESIDENT IN GABORONE.

4. ACCORDING TO CHONA, TALKS NOW UNDERWAY BETWEEN NKOMO'S ZAPU AND MUGABE'S ZANU GROUP SHOULD PRODUCE NOT ONLY A DEGREE OF COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONALISTS BUT ALSO ACCEPTANCE OF THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE PROPOSAL EVEN IF DETAILS LIKE MAINTENANCE OF EXTERNAL DEFENSE AND INTERNAL ORDER IN THE HANDS OF WHITE MINISTERS ARE REJECTED. NKOMO HIMSELF IS IN BULAWAYO MEETING WITH HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN A MANDATE TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WHITE RHODESIAN LEADERS. IT IS THIS PROCESS OF OBTAINING A MANDATE WHICH EACH PARTY IS GOING THROUGH NOW WHICH NECESSARILY FORCES THEM TO STATE THE ISSUES IN THE MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES. THIS GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE AMONG THE PARTIES. ONCE THE MANDATES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED, HOWEVER, NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED MORE SMOOTHLY.

5. CHONA URGED THAT THE SECRETARY INCLUDE MACHEL IN THE EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE IN WHICH HE IS ENGAGING. HE SAID HE PARTICULARLY ROPED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF SUNDAY MORNING (STATE 239414) HAD BEEN SENT TO MACHEL. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, THAT MOZAMBIQUE NOT FEEL ISOLATED IN THE ONGOING PROCESS.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS GABORONE FOR SCHAUFEELE.

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